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**DCA FILE**

The Honorable William Webster  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, DC

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Dear Director Webster:

Several incidents have been reported in the news lately which have caused me some concern about the way in which our national security priorities are set. Specifically, I am concerned that a formal, unspoken policy may exist which places intelligence matters above the lawful pursuit of terrorists.

As the ranking member on the Subcommittee on Crime, I have worked extremely hard -- in cooperation with Justice officials -- to help stop terrorism and provide adequate support through law to our agencies who are charged with the task of tracking down and preempting terrorists. Moreover, the facts of many of these cases, like Fawaz Younis, are familiar to me.

Furthermore, my position on the Subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees and International Law has allowed me to see close-up the effects of terrorist attacks upon innocents -- like the refugees in Pakistan where in 1987, 234 persons were killed, and 1,200 were wounded (nearly half of all deaths and injuries from terrorist attacks worldwide) due to WAD attacks.

In addition, the experience of the Iran/Contra committee has left an overall impression that all is not well where our intelligence collection professionals and our terrorism experts are concerned. I listened very carefully to the former Deputy Director of Operations and an official then responsible for terrorism at the CIA discuss the horrible "turf battles" which take place within the national security bureaucracy on these matters.

Let me cite two recent events which put this problem into practical terms.

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A Friday, September 23, 1988, Washington Post article reported that North Korean agents were able to smuggle eighty-six sophisticated helicopters out of the U.S. because the CIA refused to report the scheme to law enforcement officials. Their reason: a sensitive source. It seems the possibility that such aircraft could be used for cross-border military attacks or terrorist activity was discounted.

Another incident, which I have closely followed, is the derailment of an FBI investigation into the plane crash in Pakistan which killed our Ambassador, Arnold Raphel, General Herbert Wassom and Pakistani President and U.S. ally, Mohammed Zia ul-Haq.

Although the State Department was the actual department which refused permission to the FBI terrorism experts, neither CIA, DoD or Justice made formal complaints. My suspicion is of course, that Secretary Shultz is extremely concerned that if, as the Pakistanis have said repeatedly, the crash was the result of sabotage or terrorist action, that the trail might lead to the Soviet-controlled Afghan intelligence service, WAD.

Certainly, the CIA is aware of these possibilities. Why therefore, have we not seen an effort to insist that these angles are pursued? Is the CIA simply an observer with no responsibility? A bystander who watches a murder but feels no duty to call the police?

You, having served as head of the FBI and as DCI presently, know better than I both sides of the coin: law verses intelligence. And you were chosen to head the CIA because you understand the dire consequences of an unbalanced national security perspective.

It is my view, that we must maintain the integrity of both of these national security components -- without compromising basic principals. I bring these two recent reports to your attention simply because they raise particular moral questions. And it is my hope that you will consider these questions in your capacity as the head of our nation's intelligence community.

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A similar letter has been addressed to the Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. Your consideration is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill McCollum", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

BILL MCCOLLUM  
Member of Congress